

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 3, 6-8, 13, 14, and 18-20 contain allowable subject matter, and for the courtesy extended to Applicant's representative in the telephonic interview on April 6, 2005.

Disposition of Claims

As amended, claims 1, 6-8, 13, 14, and 18-20 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 6, 8, 13, 14, and 18 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from the independent claims.

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 was amended to include the limitations of claim 3. Claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 9-12, and 15-17 have been cancelled in this reply. Previously dependent claims 6, 8, 13, 14, and 18 have been amended to be independent. The cancellations of and amendments to the claims are made without prejudice or disclaimer, and have been made only to bring the present application into condition for immediate allowance. Applicant expressly reserves the right to file continuing applications that include claims drawn to the original claims of the present application.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C § 102

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 9-12, and 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,076,620 ("Opferkuch"). Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter recited in claim 3, thus making claim 1 immediately allowable. Claims 2, 4, 5, 9-12, and 15-17 have been cancelled in this reply. Thus, this

rejection is moot with respect to those claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

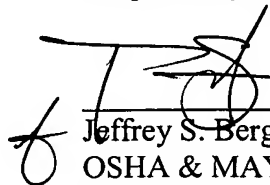
Claims 3, 6-8, 13, 14, and 18-20 were objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim. The limitations of claim 3, which is cancelled in this reply, have been incorporated into claim 1. Claims 6, 8, 13, 14, and 18 have been amended to be in independent form by incorporating the claims from which they depended. Claim 7 depends from claim 8, which is now allowable. Claims 19 and 20 depend claim 18, which is now allowable. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 05542/053001).

Date: 4/8/05

Respectfully submitted,

 445,079
Jeffrey S. Bergman, Reg. No. 45,925
OSHA & MAY L.L.P. *THOMAS SCHISLER*
One Houston Center, Suite 2800
1221 McKinney Street
Houston, TX 77010
Telephone: (713) 228-8600
Facsimile: (713) 228-8778